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Docket No.: 12810-00321-US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Jens Scheidel et al.

Application Serial No.: 10/585,626

Confirmation No.: 6527

Filed: July 11, 2006

Art Unit: 1626

For: ISOMERISATION OF CIS-2-
PENTENENITRILE TO FORM 3-
PENTENENITRILE IN A REACTIVE
DISTILLATION

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

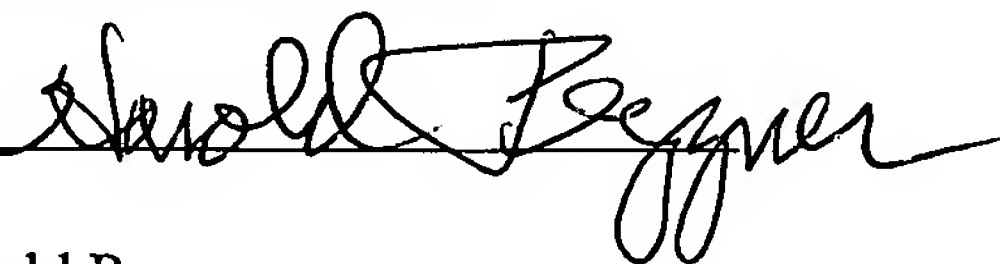
NOTICE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with applicants' duty to disclose attached is a copy of the International Preliminary Report on Patentability of the PCT counterpart for the above case. It is noted that the document cited has already been made of record in an Information Disclosure Statement in this application.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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TRANSLATION

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 0000055295	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/EP2005/000782	International filing date (day/month/year) 27.01.2005	Priority date (day/month/year) 29.01.2004
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC C07C253/30, C07C255/07		
Applicant BASF Aktiengesellschaft		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>4</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.
3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising: a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of <u>2</u> sheets, as follows: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions). <input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box. b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).
4. This report contains indications relating to the following items: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2005/000782

Box No. I	Basis of the report
1.	<p>With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____ which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)</p> <p>2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on <i>(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)</i>:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the international application as originally filed/furnished</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the description:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">pages <u>1-14</u> _____ as originally filed/furnished</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the claims:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">nos. _____ as originally filed/furnished</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">nos.* <u>1-12</u> _____ received by this Authority on <u>21.11.2005 with letter of 17.11.2005</u></p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the drawings:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">sheets <u>1</u> _____ as originally filed/furnished</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.</p>
3.	<p><input type="checkbox"/> The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> the description, pages _____</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> the claims, nos. _____</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> the drawings, sheets/figs _____</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> the sequence listing (<i>specify</i>): _____</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> any table(s) related to sequence listing (<i>specify</i>): _____</p>
4.	<p><input type="checkbox"/> This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> the description, pages _____</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> the claims, nos. _____</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> the drawings, sheets/figs _____</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> the sequence listing (<i>specify</i>): _____</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> any table(s) related to sequence listing (<i>specify</i>): _____</p>

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2005/000782

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
1. Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	1-12	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-12	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-12	YES
	Claims		NO
2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)			
D1: US-A-3 526 654			
<p>1. Document D1, which is considered to represent the closest prior art, discloses a process for isomerising pentene nitrile from which the subject matter of claim 1 differs in that isomerisation is carried out by reactive distillation (while in D1 isomerisation is carried out in a reaction column followed by a second column in which distillative separation takes place).</p> <p>The subject matter of claim 1 (and of dependent claims 2-12) is thus novel (PCT Article 33(2)).</p> <p>2. The present invention can therefore be considered to address the problem of devising another process for isomerising pentene nitriles. D1, either alone or in combination with another prior art document, does not suggest that pentene nitrile could be isomerised by reactive distillation in the manner specified in claim 1.</p> <p>Consequently, the subject matter of claim 1 (and of dependent claims 2-12) involves an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).</p>			

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

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Box No. V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement

3. Pentene nitriles are intermediate products of interest in the industry. Consequently, the subject matter of claims 1-12 meets the industrial applicability requirement.